

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**June 22, 1998**

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LAST WEEK:

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP - On Tuesday, June 16th, the House Appropriations Committee (Chairman Livingston, R-La.) marked up FY99 appropriations for the Department of Agriculture. Funding levels for conservation programs did not change from the Subcommittee mark. The levels are as follows:

| Program | Amount | Change from FY'98 |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| Conservation Operations..... | \$641,243,000 | + \$8,390,000 |
| Watershed Surveys and Planning..... | \$ 11,190,000 | - \$1,645,000 |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations..... | \$ 97,845,000 | - \$3,186,000* |
| | | *limits technical assistance to \$47,000,000 |
| Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)..... | \$ 35,000,000 | + \$ 623,000 |
| Forestry Incentives Program (FIP).. | no funding | - \$ 6,235,000 |
| Wetlands Reserve Program..... | limits to 130,000 acres | |
| Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program..... | no funding | - \$ 30,000,000 |
| Environmental Quality Incentives Program..... | \$174,000,000 | - \$ 26,000,000 |
| Conservation Farm Option..... | \$ 25,000,000 | + \$ 10,000,000 |
| Farmland Protection..... | no funding | - \$ 18,000,000 |

SENATE BEGINS FLOOR CONSIDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

APPROPRIATIONS - On Thursday, June 11th, the Senate began consideration of S. 1259, legislation making appropriations for agriculture agencies and programs for FY 1999. The funding levels under consideration are as follows:

| Program | Amount | Change from FY'98 |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Conservation Operations..... | \$638,231,000 | + \$5,378,000 |
| Watershed Surveys and Planning..... | \$ 11,190,000 | no change |
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations..... | \$101,036,000 | no change |
| Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)..... | \$ 34,377,000 | no change |
| Forestry Incentives Program (FIP).. | \$ 6,325,000 | no change |
| Wetlands Reserve Program..... | limits to 140,000 acres | |
| Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program..... | \$ 20,000,000 | -\$ 10,000,000 |
| Environmental Quality Incentives Program..... | \$200,000,000 | no change |
| Conservation Farm Option..... | no funding | -\$ 15,000,000 |
| Farmland Protection..... | no funding | -\$ 18,000,000 |

LEGISLATION OF NOTE-

The following bills of significance to NRCS and conservation were recently introduced:

| Bill | Member | Purpose |
|-------------|-----------------|--|
| S. 1259 | Cochran (R-MS) | Agriculture Appropriations Act for FY 1999. |
| H.R. 4051 | McKinney (D-GA) | Provides a mechanism for the final resolution of certain complaints of discrimination arising from the administration of programs at USDA. |

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THIS WEEK -

FLOOR CONSIDERATION OF AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS - In the Senate, floor debate is expected to continue on agriculture appropriations with passage planned for early in the week. In the House, debate and passage will likely take place by mid-week. However, note that the legislation has not yet been formally introduced.

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LOOKING AHEAD -**JULY 4TH RECESS -**

Following legislative business this week, both the House and Senate will adjourn for the Independence Day recess. The Senate is expected to adjourn by Saturday, June 27th, and return to Washington on July 5th. The House plans to recess after business is concluded on Thursday, June 25th and will reconvene on Monday, July 13th.

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